

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ALEXANDRIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087754

TOSEC 52

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECSTATE 087754 ACTION ALGIERS APR. 30,

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087754

TOSEC 52

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: GENEVA TALKS APRIL 22-26

1. CSCE STAGE II TALKS RESUMED APRIL 23 FOR WHAT MAY BE THE FINAL PUSH TOWARD COMPLETION OF THE DRAFTING PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE. IN GENERAL, THE RESUMED NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY EXCEPT ON NEARLY STALEMATED BASKET 3 "FREER MOVEMENT" PROPOSALS, ON WHICH THE SOVIETS ARE STILL EXPECTED, HOWEVER, TO SHOW INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN THE FINAL WEEKS OF THE GENEVA TALKS.

2. POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES - AGENDA ITEM 1. DRAFTING HAS NOW BEGUN ON THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE -- TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY -- OF THE TEN PRINCIPLES UNDER
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CONSIDERATION AT CSCE, WITH THE FRG HOLDING TO CONSERVATIVE

POSITIONS OUT OF CONCERN THAT THE FRONTIER INVIOABILITY QUESTION MIGHT BE REOPENED. IN THE WORK ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES (CBMS), PROVISIONAL RELISTRATION WAS REACHED ON THE SECTION CONCERNING THE CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL RELATING TO PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MAJOR MILITARY MANEUVERS. ATTENTION HAS NOW TURNED TO DISCUSSION OF DISARMAMENT, WITH FRANCE CAREFULLY RESERVING HER POSITION ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT, AND THE SOVIETS ALSO ARGUING THAT IT REQUIRES CAREFUL STUDY.

3. HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION - AGENDA ITEM 3.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON A DRAFT BASKET 3 PREAMBLE, BUT THEY ARE MAKING LITTLE, IF ANY, PROGRESS AT PRESENT. THE SOVIETS HAVE RETURNED TO GENEVA DISPLAYING U MARKEDLY INFLEXIBLE ATTITUDE ON THE PREAMBLE AND FREER MOVEMENT QUESTIONS. THERE IS WIDESPREAD EXPECTATION, HOWEVER, THAT DURING MAY THE SOVIET DELEGATION WILL HAVE TO ACCELERATE THE TALKS ON HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION AND MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS, IF THEY HOPE TO ATTRACT A HIGH-LEVEL WESTERN PRESENCE AT THE STAGE III FINALE IN HELSINKI. THE FRENCH HAVE BEGUN TO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY IN REACTION TO US INITIATIVES CONCERNING PROPOSALS TABLED BY FRANCE ON CULTURAL EXCHANGES - PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE

UNDERSCORED THE "EUROPEAN" CHARACTER OF SUCH EXCHANGES AND SEEMED DELIBERATELY TO IGNORE THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

C. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES - AGENDA ITEM 4.

THE NATO CAUCUS AGREED APRIL 25 TO AN EC NINE DRAFT RESOLUTION ON POST-CSCE FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES, CALLING FOR AD HOC MEETINGS OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND A MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN 1977, THREE YEARS AFTER COMPLETION OF STAGE III, WITH SECRETARIAT SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE HOST COUNTRY INVOLVED. BASICALLY, THE RESOLUTION REFLECTS SLIPPAGE FROM AN EARLIER EC PROPOSAL TOWARD THE YUGOSLAV SUGGESTION OF A POST-CONFERENCE "CONTINUING COMMITTEE." WE INSTRUCTED THE US DELEGATION, IN THE NATO CAUCUS, TO EXPRESS GENERAL BACKING FOR EC NINE POSITIONS, WHILE ADHERING TO EXISTING GUIDANCE -- I.E., CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE US CANNOT SUPPORT CREATION OF PERMANENT MACHINERY WITH A POLITICAL/SECURITY MANDATE.

5. MEDITERRANEAN DECLARATION.

DESPITE US DEMARCHES IN SELECTED ALLIED CAPITALS AND VIGOROUS EFFORTS BY OUR CSCE DELEGATION TO PERSUADE THE ITALIANS, BACKED BY THEIR EC PARTNERS, TO DROP EFFORTS TO TABLE A GENERAL DECLARATION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN,

THE NINE CONTINUE TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THOSE EFFORTS. WE ARE INSTRUCTING OUR EMBASSIES IN NATO CAPITALS TO REMAIN FIRM ON THIS ISSUE IN THE HOPE THAT THE DECLARATION IDEA MAY YET BE ABANDONED.

6. SOVIET NEW TIMES COMMENTARY.

SETTING THE STAGE FOR SOVIET TACTICS AT THE RESUMED GENEVA TALKS, A LENGTHY COMMENTARY IN THE AUTHORITATIVE JOURNAL NEW TIMES HAILS THE RECENT AGREEMENT AT GENEVA ON FRONTIER INVIOABILITY AS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CSCE

ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE; COMPLAINS OF WESTERN "MAXIMALIST" POSITIONS ON CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES; DISMISSES THE SWISS PROPOSAL ON PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES; TAKES AN UPBEAT POSITION ON BASKET 2 ITEMS, POINTING TO MFN AS "THE MOST ESSENTIAL ELEMENT" OF BROADENED EAST-WEST ECONOMIC TIES; CITES PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED ON HUMANITARIAN COOPERATION ISSUES, WHILE ATTACKING LACK OF PROGRESS ON A BASKET 3 PREAMBLE AND RECALLING SOCIALIST COUNTRIES PROPOSAL THAT THE PREAMBLE INCLUDE

LANGUAGE ON NON-INTERFERENCE, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY, LAWS AND CUSTOMS; AND REITERATES DESIRABILITY OF A "CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE" OR SIMILAR POST-CONFERENCE FORUM. THE ARTICLE CONSPICUOUSLY FAILS TO CALL FOR STAGE III AT THE SUMMIT -- POSSIBLY TO DOWNPLAY MOSCOW'S ROLE AS DEMANDEUR ON THIS QUESTION. RUSH

UNQUOTE RUSH

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